



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

### ISAT Sample Questions: Grade 4 Reading

#### **Buddy Barks at the Sky**

Sarah wanted a dog. Finally her parents agreed. “If you will take care of a dog, we will get you one,” they said. Sara picked out a yellow Labrador retriever and named him Buddy.

Buddy became Sara’s friend. When Sara returned from school, she told Buddy about her day as they went for a walk together. Buddy listened to Sara better than any other friend. He was a calm, well-behaved dog.

One day, when Sara let Buddy out in the backyard, she heard barking that went on for several minutes. “Buddy, what is wrong?” Sara called from the open back door. Buddy came running inside to Sara, with no answer to her question.

The next day, Sara let Buddy out again. Buddy let out an explosion of endless barking. “Buddy, what is it?” Sara asked. Buddy looked at Sara, and then he looked up toward the oak tree that bordered Sara’s yard. Sara looked up too. “You are barking at a tree?” Sara was stumped, but Buddy kept barking until Sara walked him inside holding him by his collar.

Buddy continued to bark like a squeaky machine from inside the house, standing at the doors that led out to the deck. “That dog’s bark is annoying,” complained her mother.

“I do not know what is wrong,” said Sara sadly. “Buddy has always been a contented dog.” Sara was able to calm Buddy down by luring him away from the doors with a chew toy. She quickly closed the shades and kept Buddy busy.

The next time Buddy wanted to go outside, she let him out and stood watch in the backyard. When Buddy began barking, Sara observed what else was happening in the yard. A squirrel scampered across the telephone wire up above. Sara looked at Buddy, and then she looked at the squirrel. Is that what Buddy was so upset about? As the squirrel moved, so did Buddy. The squirrel was Buddy’s annoyance.

After doing some research on squirrels, Sara had news for her dog. “Buddy, from now on you are not going out in the yard in the early morning or the late afternoon. That is when squirrels are the busiest in the yard. When cold weather comes, I will let you outside a bit more, since during the winter squirrels spend much of their day keeping warm in their nests.”

Buddy listened like he always did, and Sara and her parents had peace at last.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1. Which word from the passage has a suffix that means “without”?
  - A. agreed
  - B. endless
  - C. returned
  - D. together
  
2. Why did the author most likely write this passage?
  - A. to provide interesting facts about dogs
  - B. to teach about caring for pets
  - C. to entertain with a story about a dog
  - D. to report about the daily habits of squirrels
  
3. According to the passage, what causes Buddy to bark?
  - A. Buddy wants to go in the house.
  - B. Buddy sees a neighbor.
  - C. Buddy wants to play.
  - D. Buddy sees a squirrel.
  
4. Based on the passage, which word best describes Sara?
  - A. shy
  - B. polite
  - C. forgetful
  - D. responsible
  
5. Where does most of the passage take place?
  - A. at an apartment building
  - B. in a city park
  - C. at a school playground
  - D. in a backyard



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

6. How is the problem resolved?
  - A. Sara purchases a dog.
  - B. Sara tells the dog about her day.
  - C. Sara changes the dog's schedule.
  - D. Sara stands still watching the dog's behavior.
  
7. From whose point of view is the passage written?
  - A. Sara
  - B. Buddy
  - C. a narrator
  - D. the mother
  
8. Which quotation from the passage contains a simile?
  - A. "Buddy let out an explosion of endless barking."
  - B. "Buddy listened like he always did..."
  - C. "Buddy became Sara's friend."
  - D. "Buddy continued to bark like a squeaky machine..."



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ISAT Sample Questions: Grade 4 Reading

Question #	Correct Answer	Standard/Goal/Objective
1	B	1.4.1
2	C	2.1.1
3	D	2.1.2
4	D	2.3.2
5	D	2.3.3
6	C	2.3.4
7	C	2.3.5
8	D	2.3.7